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Patent
U.S. Appl. No. 09/976,024

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-23 (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method for the cleaning of an injection mold comprising the steps of:

producing a ~~cleaner~~ flow of dry ice granules comprising dry ice granules entrained in a gas, with the dry ice granules ranging in size from approximately 0.005 to 0.040 inches in diameter, at a gas-to-dry ice mass ratio ranging from approximately 2.0 to 3.5, and at a gas flow rate ranging from approximately 3 to 50 SCFM; and

positioning a nozzle tip of a hand tool adjacent an injection mold surface to be cleaned;

triggering the operation of the hand tool to initiate the ~~cleaner~~ flow of dry ice granules, to cause the ~~cleaner~~ flow of dry ice granules to clean the injection mold surface.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of cleaning an injection mold according to Claim 24, wherein, the nozzle tip of the hand tool is positioned at a distance ranging from 0.5 and 1.5 inches from the injection mold surface to be cleaned.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of cleaning an injection mold according to Claim 25, further comprising the steps of opening the injection mold, and

positioning a mold ejection mechanism in communication with said injection mold so as
to expose the injection mold surface to be cleaned.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of cleaning an injection mold
according to Claim 26, wherein, in the step of producing the ~~cleaner~~ flow of dry ice
granules, the gas to dry ice ratio is kept at approximately 3.0.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of cleaning an injection mold
according to Claim 27, wherein, in the step of producing the ~~cleaner~~ flow of dry ice
granules, the granule size is kept at approximately 0.020 inches in diameter.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of cleaning an injection mold
according to Claim 28, wherein, in the step of producing the ~~cleaner~~ flow of dry ice
granules, the gas flow rate is kept at approximately 25 SCFM.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of cleaning an injection mold
according to Claim 29, wherein, in the step of positioning the nozzle tip of the hand tool,
the position of the nozzle tip is kept approximately 1.0 inch from the injection mold
surface to be cleaned.